

SITUATION REPORT NO. 15
INCIDENT NO. 96-37
DATE: May 3, 1996 **TIME: 10:00 a.m.**

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58504

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring Flood. (Separate situation reports are being issued regarding Devils Lake, incident #96-01.)
2. DEATH AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGE: Five bridges that connect Minnesota and North Dakota, from Walsh County north to the Canadian border, remain closed because of flooding along the Red River, restricting travel between the two states.

The Sheyenne River at Kindred crested at 20.6 feet on May 1. Flood stage is 16 feet. The forecast crest had been 22.5-23.0 feet.

The Sheyenne River at West Fargo Diversion is forecast to crest at 21 feet on May 4. The river was recorded at 20.0 feet on May 2; flood stage is 16.5 feet.

Initial identification reports from the American Red Cross indicate 188 homes in Grand Forks, Walsh, and Pembina Counties have received flood damage.

4. RESOURCES COMMITTED:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTIONS: No change from previous reports.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Governor Ed Schafer announced on May 1 that state and local officials have begun a comprehensive damage assessment. Early findings indicate that the Sheyenne and Red River Basins were hardest hit. The assessment is being hampered by high water levels, muddy conditions that prevent close inspection of impacted areas, and the fact that frost remains in the ground, thus damages could increase as thawing of subsoil occurs.

The flood control pool at Jamestown Dam peaked at 1,444.6 feet M.S.L. on April 25. As of May 2 it had been drawn down to 1,444.1 feet M.S.L. Releases are scheduled to remain at 1,200 cubic feet

per second (cfs) until the pool reaches 1,440 feet M.S.L. Releases from Pipestem Dam are 100 cfs for a total of 1,300 cfs going through Jamestown. This situation is extremely tenuous for the next few weeks since significant precipitation could cause a rise in the pool level. If the pool level reaches 1,445.4 feet M.S.L., the operations plan calls for releases to be increased to 1,800 cfs. A significant floodfight in Jamestown (temporary dikes and sandbagging) and major agricultural concerns downstream would occur if releases reached 1,800-1,900 cfs. Jamestown city officials have taken protective actions but are concerned about releases in the 1,800-1,900 cfs range.

Bureau of Reclamation dam safety experts inspected Jamestown Dam on May 2.

The Emmons County Commission and Wells County Commission issued disaster declarations on May 2.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from previous reports.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The National Weather Service increased the Devils Lake outlook to a July crest of 1,437.5 feet M.S.L. to 1,438-1,438.5 feet M.S.L. based on normal precipitation and evaporation rates.

Signed _____

Douglas C. Friez
State Director